

This brochure answers some frequently asked questions about California's Smog Check program.

What are the environmental benefits of the Smog Check program?

The Smog Check program has greatly reduced air pollution created by California's 30 million cars.

According to the California Air Resources Board, the program removes more than 360 tons of smog-forming pollutants from the air every day.



In the San Francisco Bay Area, the program changes will reduce smog-forming emissions by an estimated 77 tons per day—an improvement of 30 tons a day.

**Drive Smart, California!**

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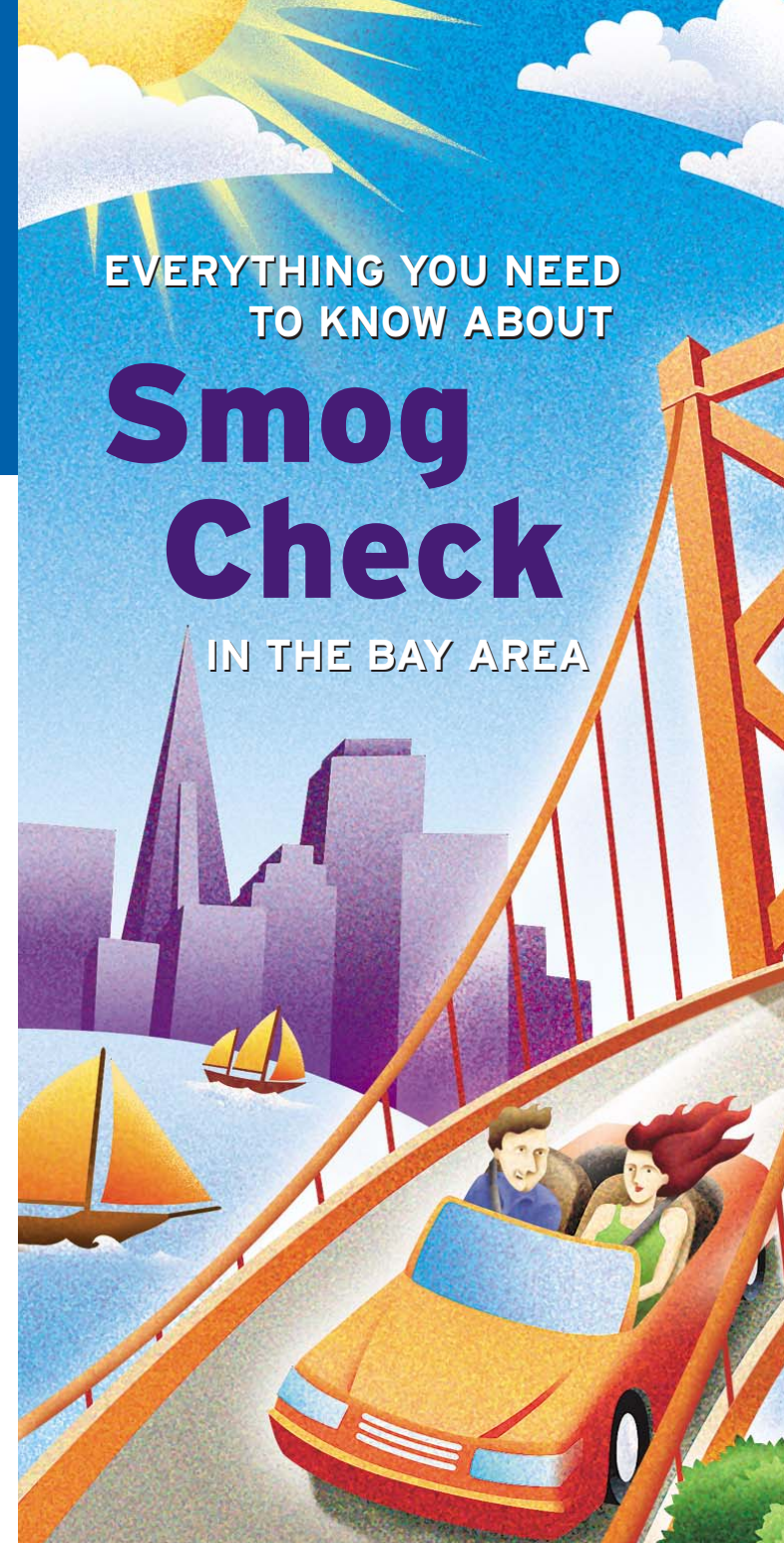
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# Smog Check

IN THE BAY AREA



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## What changes under the new program?

The new program uses newer equipment to test for more pollutants and newer test procedures to help identify vehicles that need repair. Also, some vehicles will need to go to a Test-Only station for their Smog Check.



## What is a Test-Only station?

Test-Only stations are licensed to only perform Smog Checks. State law prohibits them from making repairs.

## Which vehicles need to go to a Test-Only station for their Smog Check?

Vehicles with expected high emissions levels are selected for testing at these stations.

## How will I know if I need to take my car to a Test-Only station?

You will be notified on the registration renewal notice sent by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) if your vehicle must be inspected at a Test-Only station.



## How can I find a Test-Only station?

You can find the nearest Test-Only station by visiting [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) or by calling 1-800-952-5210.

## How much does a Smog Check cost?

Smog Check prices vary in different areas. Prices for Smog Checks aren't regulated, so motorists

are encouraged to shop around. For a list of stations in your area, visit [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov).

## Is my vehicle required to get a Smog Check?

Your vehicle needs a Smog Check if it is older than five years and under 30 years old (with the exception of diesels, motorcycles, electric vehicles, and two-cylinder engine vehicle).



## How often will my vehicle have to be tested under the new Smog Check program?

Your vehicle must be tested every other year, just as before. A Smog Check also is required if you sell your vehicle.

## How long does it take to complete a Smog Check?

The average test time is 20-30 minutes, with many stations able to complete it in 15 minutes.

## How can I help my vehicle pass Smog Check?

Proper and regular vehicle maintenance according to your Owner's Manual, and not tampering with the emissions control equipment are keys to passing Smog Check and lowering emissions from your vehicle.



## What happens if my vehicle fails Smog Check?

You will need to get your vehicle repaired so it can pass its Smog Check retest in order to complete your registration. But, first see if you are eligible for our Consumer Assistance Program (see next panel).

If you are not eligible, you may want to visit a Smog Check station participating in our Gold Shield program (see below).

## What is a Gold Shield station?

It's a licensed Smog Check station that meets certain performance criteria in order to certify all vehicles it repairs. This includes a vehicle that requires and fails Smog Check at a Test-Only station, so that it does not have to return to a Test-Only station for certification after it has been repaired. To find a Gold Shield station near you, visit [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) or call 1-800-952-5210.



## What if I can't afford the repairs?

If your vehicle needs a Smog Check at a Test-Only station, you automatically qualify for up to \$500 in repair assistance under the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP). You also may qualify if your income is within certain levels, regardless of where you got your Smog Check. To get a CAP application, visit [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) or call 1-800-952-5210.



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